

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 21, 2008. Claims 1, 5 and 20 to 35 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 23, 25 and 30 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 32 to 35 were objected to for an informality. Without conceding the correctness of the objection, Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments to the claims address the Examiner's concern. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 20 to 22 and 25 to 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Published Appln. No. 2003/0085942 (Narusawa) in view of U.S. Published Appln. No. 2003/0142325 (Leslie). Claims 23, 24, 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Narusawa. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a print system, in which a printer and a host computer, each of which includes a communication interface for transmitting and receiving information in real time, are connected to each other to communicate with each other. The printer includes a read-out unit for reading out image data from a detachable recording medium of the printer; an operation panel including a plurality of operation members, each for receiving an instruction from a user, wherein the plurality of operation members includes at least a print instruction button, a preview display button, and a print setting button; a printer engine for performing printing, the printer engine being arranged to print the image data read out from the detachable recording medium of the printer in accordance with the print instruction button of the operation panel receiving the instruction from the user, without requiring communication with the host computer; an operation panel controller for

generating print setting information associated with the print setting button and an interruption event corresponding thereto, and for transmitting the generated print setting information and the generated interruption event to the host computer via the communication interface of the printer, if the preview display button of the operation panel receives the instruction from the user; and a transmission unit for transmitting, via the communication interface of the printer, the image data which is read out by the read-out unit. The host computer includes an interruption controller for detecting the interruption event transmitted by the printer; a receiving unit for receiving, from the printer, the print setting information generated by the printer and the image data read out from the detachable recording medium of the printer, if the interruption controller detects the interruption event; and a display control unit for causing a display apparatus to effect a print preview display on the basis of the print setting information and image data received by the receiving unit.

Amended independent Claim 23 is directed to a print system, in which a printer and a host computer, each of which includes a communication interface for transmitting and receiving information in real time, are connected to each other to communicate with each other, the host computer comprising a detecting unit for detecting an interruption event generated and transmitted by the printer when a predetermined operation button of the printer is operated; a receiving unit for receiving image data read out by the printer from a detachable memory card, if the detection unit detects the interruption event; and a print preview display control unit for, in response to the detection of the interruption event, obtaining a print setting generated by the printer when the predetermined operation button is operated and controlling a display apparatus of the host computer to effect a print preview display by applying the obtained print setting to the received image data so that the print setting is reflected therein.

Therefore, a print system in accordance with Claims 1 or 23 is arranged so that image data is read out by the printer from a detachable recording medium, while the host computer receives the read-out image data from the printer and effects a preview display based upon the received image data and the print setting information generated and transmitted by the printer. As stated in the Office Action, Narusawa does not disclose a transmission unit in the printer for communication with a host computer, nor does Narusawa discuss notification of an interrupt event with regard to a host computer or network.

Claim 1 further includes the feature of an operation panel of the printer including a plurality of operation members, each for receiving an instruction from a user, wherein the plurality of operation members includes at least a print instruction button, a preview display button, and a print setting button. The print instruction button may effect printer-stand-alone printing of the image data read out from the detachable recording medium of the printer, while the preview display button may effect transmission of print settings corresponding to the print setting button, as well as interruption event information, to the host computer. Thus, the printer of the present invention may print image data, stored in the detachable recording medium of the printer, without communicating with another data processing apparatus. In addition, the printer of the present invention has a function for interruption processing that sends information to the host computer, causing the host computer to effect a preview display based upon the information generated and transmitted by the printer alone to the host computer. These features are not found in the system of Leslie, since it is the host computer in Leslie that generates print setting and image data for transmission to the printer.

Thus, the system in Leslie does not include a printer having such a print setting and image data generation function. Even when combined with the system in Narusawa, which

Applicants do not concede is permissible, the combination does not disclose or suggest a system comprising a printer which includes a read-out unit for reading out image data from a detachable recording medium of the printer; an operation panel including a plurality of operation members, each for receiving an instruction from a user, wherein the plurality of operation members includes at least a print instruction button, a preview display button, and a print setting button; a printer engine for performing printing, the printer engine being arranged to print the image data read out from the detachable recording medium of the printer in accordance with the print instruction button of the operation panel receiving the instruction from the user, without requiring communication with the host computer; an operation panel controller for generating print setting information associated with the print setting button and an interruption event corresponding thereto, and for transmitting the generated print setting information and the generated interruption event to the host computer via the communication interface of the printer, if the preview display button of the operation panel receives the instruction from the user; and a transmission unit for transmitting, via the communication interface of the printer, the image data which is read out by the read-out unit.

Accordingly, the cited references of Narusawa and Leslie, whether taken alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest all of the features of the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1 and 23. In light of these deficiencies in Narusawa and Leslie, as discussed above, Applicants submit that amended independent Claims 1 and 23 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Amended independent Claim 25 is directed to a print system control method substantially in accordance with the print system of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 25 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 30 is directed to a print system control method substantially in accordance with the print system of Claim 23. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 30 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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